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Controller Comments on State Budget

SACRAMENTO – “Today we adopted a \$103.4 billion budget that was out-of-balance the moment it was signed. This budget dooms those most harmed by the record-setting budget stalemate – students on financial aid, nursing homes, child care centers and other providers of critical public services – to relive the same nightmare next year.

“I am expediting payments to health care providers, schools and others harmed by this indefensible budget delay. More than \$3.6 billion in Medi-Cal payments will go out in the next 48 hours, and I will take every step necessary to get the remaining payments out as quickly as possible.

“After having deferred responsible and difficult budget decisions for years through a combination of reckless borrowing and Enron-style accounting tricks, the Governor and Legislature must craft a budget plan that brings revenues and expenditures in line with the needs of Californians today, and those of future generations.

“In just over 100 days, the Governor is scheduled to unveil a budget for the next fiscal year. I strongly urge him and the Legislature to immediately start working on the long-term budget reforms California desperately needs. There is little hope for addressing healthcare reform, energy affordability, job growth, and improved schools, roads and highways if the State is incapable of even balancing its checkbook.”

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